National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

August 20, 2009

Reply to Attn of:
General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at an STS-128 Post-Launch Reception hosted by Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne (PWR) on August 24, 2009

NASA invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend a post-launch reception sponsored by Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Hotel, Cocoa Beach, in Florida, on August 24, 2009, from 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of approximately 250 representatives of government, the aerospace industry and the community. Food and refreshments will be served at a cost of approximately $35 per person. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2). I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned reception is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The event will provide NASA employees to discuss the mission and other NASA programs with representation of the communities participating in the reception.

Accordingly, NASA employees that have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i), regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Moreover, NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which the President's Executive Order of January 21, 2009, requires signing an ethics pledge may only attend if they reimburse the sponsors the cost of the reception for themselves and any accompanying guest.

Adam F. Greenstone